REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 has been amended. Support for the newly recited "exposing cells" limitation can be found on page 6, lines 23-26 of the specification. Claim 12 has been amended to put it in better form for U.S. practice.

Atten et al. describe a study relating to chemopreventive agents that might be useful to arrest or reverse malignant transformations in combating gastric cancer. The study employed RF-1 cells which are said to be gastric adenocarcinoma cells. The Office points to no mention by Atten et al. of ghrelin secretion or release.

The disclosure of Ji et al. concerns analysis of gene expression profiles in certain cancer cell lines, among which are RF-1 and RF-48. However, the Office points to no teaching of ghrelin, let alone to the expression and/or secretion thereof by RF-1 and RF-48. Most importantly, Ji et al. teach that RF-1 and RF-48 had previously been misidentified as gastric adenocarcinoma cells and that it is now "conclusive that RF-1 and RF-48 were in fact B-cell lymphoma."

The Office cites Kojima et al. as teaching ghrelin as a growth-hormone-releasing peptide from the stomach. The Office points to no mention by Kojima et al. of any cell line corresponding to RF-1 and/or RF-48.

If it were assumed that Kojima et al. provides an incentive for the skilled person to try to develop a method for assessing the (regulation) of expression, synthesis and/or secretion of ghrelin, as the Office appears to have asserted, combining the teachings of Kojima et al. with those of Atten et al. and those of Ji et al. would not have led the skilled person to the invention presently claimed.

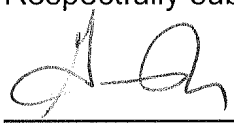
Although Atten et al. suggest that RF-1 cells are gastric adenocarcinoma cells, Ji et al. clearly teach that that suggestion was erroneous and that RF-1 and RF-48 are in fact B-lymphoma cell lines. Ji et al. disclose a number of other cell lines which are in fact gastric cells.

Hence, if Kojima would have provided an incentive for developing a method of assessing ghrelin expression, synthesis or secretion, and if it were assumed that Kojima would have motivated the skilled artisan to use gastric cell lines for that purpose, the combined teachings of Atten et al. and Ji et al. would certainly not have motivated him/her to use RF-1 and/or RF-48, since it was 'conclusive' that these cell lines are not gastric cell lines.

Applicants further note that the skilled person, even if he/she were to assume that RF-1 and RF-48 were in fact gastric adenocarcinoma cell lines, would still have had at his/her disposal about 14 different 'gastric carcinoma' cell lines to choose from based on the Atten et al. and Ji et al. disclosures, when seeking to provide a method for testing Ghrelin secretion. It is not seen why he or she would have been motivated to choose RF-1 and RF-48 from these 15 cell lines, since the Office points to no teaching in Ji et al. or Atten et al. of the expression/secretion of ghrelin by any one of the cell lines disclosed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application, as amended, be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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